

Ms. Diana R. Gordon
317 E. 10 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10009

12/24/89

Dear Ms. Gordon,

In writing you about your The Nation piece on the FBI and CISPES in which the FBI's Dallas office was its office of origin I neglected to include a couple of samples of how that office hid records. In your 11/20 you did not indicate the direction of your future writing about the FBI so I'll refer you to another such record in the event that is of continuing interest.

When on the first working day after the JFK assassination the Dallas FBI was shown a still picture of the President being killed it didn't even take a copy because it was, allegedly, not suitable for identification purposes. This is to say it did show the killing, the presumed subject of the investigation, but it did not show Oswald with a smoking gun. The motion picture allegedly did not show the building from which, prior to any real investigation, the FBI had decided that all the shots came. In fact that film had 87 frames of the very window from which the FBI says all shots came. This record was not sent to Washington and could not be retrieved by any Washington search.

The William Walter matter was quite controversial and embarrassing to the FBI. So, when he got some information, the Dallas SAC was told not to file it and to send it to FBIHQ out of channels and thus outside the normal filing system.

Dave Garrow may not have told you of the supposedly exhaustive search ordered of all field offices for an inventory of all their records relating to Dr. King, his family and associates for the pending Departmental investigation of how Dr. King was treated. These inventories total 402 pages. But they do not include a single one of the countless tapes of the many surveillances. Without exception all the field offices knew from the order for the supposedly exhaustive search that they were not to be included.

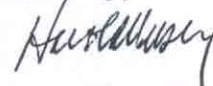
These are but a few of the things I had in mind in writing you in haste because of my health problems. In a couple of weeks I'll have heart surgery, with two weeks in the hospital and two entirely inactive weeks at home, after which I'll be of limited mobility. If you think of anything that may interest you, let me know and ~~let~~ think of what I have that might be of use to you.

Ultimately all my materials will be a public deposit at local Hood College. Dr. Gerald McNight, history department, knows most about them.

Then, as now, anyone can have access. It may take some time, however, for Hood to set them up. They'll be received in filing cabinets the contents of which are indicated on them.

You may want to bear in mind that the General Accounting Office, about 10 years ago, concluded that only about a quarter of the FBI's records are in its central filing system. It should be able to provide you with a copy of its report.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg